

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/720,535

Examiner

Michael M. Thompson

Applicant(s)

GRIBBONS ET AL.

Art Unit

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9-27-2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 8 and 9.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 09-13-2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: It appears the prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious a catheter and guide wire exchange system comprising, *inter alia*, the combination of an elongate flexible catheter shaft having proximal and distal shafts, the proximal shaft contains a tri lumen arrangement of tubes defining a first guide wire lumen and first inflation lumen and a stiffening wire lumen, the distal shaft contains a coaxial arrangement of an inner tube defining a second guide wire lumen and an outer tube surrounding the inner tube thereby defining second inflation lumen, a longitudinal guide way formed in the proximal shaft to enable transverse access to the first guide wire lumen through the proximal shaft, the guide way extending along a major portion of the length of the proximal shaft from a location adjacent a proximal end of the proximal shaft to a distal terminal end proximal of a distal end of the proximal shaft, thereby defining an uncut distal segment of the proximal shaft, a stop located on the proximal shaft at the distal terminal end of the guideway; a speed bump located on the proximal shaft proximal of the stop, a balloon mounted about a distal segment of the distal shaft, the balloon being in fluid communication with the second inflation lumen, a guide member mounted on the proximal shaft and having a catheter passageway extending there through for slidably receiving the catheter shaft and a guide wire passageway for slidably receiving the guide wire for merging the guide wire and the catheter by guiding the guide wire transversely through the guide way and into the first lumen and for separating the guide wire and catheter by guiding the guide wire transversely out of the first lumen through said guide way, and a transition segment between the proximal shaft and the distal shaft, the transition segment comprising the proximal shaft having a cut back section adjacent the first lumen at its distal end

Art Unit: 3763

an a non cut back section at its distal end, the distal shaft outer tube abutting the proximal shaft at the cut back section and overlapping the non cut back section of the proximal shaft distal end and the distal shaft inner tube inserted in the first lumen in the proximal shaft.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael Thompson whose telephone number is (703) 305-1619. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Nick Lucchesi, can be reached on (703) 308-2698. The official fax phone number for all submissions to the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Michael M. Thompson

Patent Examiner


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